

City of ROBINSON TEXAS

CITY OF ROBINSON NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019, SECTION 2



Changes in the Recycling World



Do you know what happens to your recycling after it leaves your home? While you may just toss your bottle, can, or paper in the bin and continue on your way, you probably haven't given much thought to where it ends up. WasteDive.com reported one-third of the United States' recyclables are exported to different countries, China once being the largest customer in the industry. In fact, according to the article "5 charts that show

the trade flow effects of China's import policies" written by Cole Rosengren and Edwin Lopez and published on WasteDive.com, "Modern residential recycling programs in the U.S. were built on the back of high Chinese demand, fueled in part by low-cost labor." But, this all began to change in July of 2017, when China filed with the World Trade Organization (WTO) their intent to stop accepting 24 kinds of solid waste imports by the end of the year. China stated the filing was to address the concerns of pollution occurring to China's environment and the effect it was having on people's health along with growing labor concerns. As China began to implement this stricter ban, a handful of Southeastern Asian countries began to pick up China's slack, such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam. However, these countries are not viable as a long-term solution because they are not equipped to keep up with the volume of scrap they receive. In fact, in May of 2018, Vietnam temporarily stopped accepting scrap recycling which resulted in other countries following suit. Along with not being equipped to handle the amount of product being shipped to these countries, they also have "...no regulatory framework to ensure plastic waste is processed in an environmentally friendly way," reports Waste Dive.

So, how does this affect you, the customer? In July of 2018, the City of Robinson began offering recycling services as an option through a newly signed contract with Waste Management. The ripple effect of China's ban on import began to hit here locally right as this new service was to begin. To prevent a rate increase to the customers, this early on in the new service, Waste Management negotiated an agreement with Sunbright Recycling which required the elimination of glass and plastics numbered (3) three through (7) seven from their curbside recycling program.



As we make our way into 2019, the United States is continuing to see the effects on cities nationwide. Recently, Sunbright Recycling informed Waste Management they would be increasing their fees from \$25/ton to \$70/ton for recycling brought to them. This would mean a \$.44 increase per month to residential customers bills, but with service being so new to customers City Council approved to waive the rate increase to customers until July when the contract allows for annual rate adjustments based on Consumer Price Index (CPI).

As the United States, as a whole, continues to seek solutions to the impact China's ban has caused, there will continue to be uncertainty on the continued effects of the local market. In the meantime, the City will continue to work closely with Waste Management to provide reasonably priced services to customers as the market continues to change.

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Community News

Citizen's Police Academy- Apply
Today!

Calendar:

County Clean Up Day
March 16, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

P & Z Commission Meeting
March 21, 6 p.m.

City Council Meeting
April 2, 6 p.m.

Bulk/Brush Day
April 6, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast
April 13, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The GREAT Robinson Easter Egg Hunt
April 19, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Good Friday - City Offices Closed
April 19

Contact:

City of Robinson, TX
111 W Lyndale
Robinson, TX 76706

Phone: 254.662.1415

Fax: 254.662.1035

Utilities@RobinsonTexas.org

After hours & Weekends
254.662.0525

Affects of the Change

A Quick Glimpse on How this is Affecting Other Texas Cities

- Rates increase in El Paso.
- Texarkana fears local recycling could be in danger due to high contamination rates.
- Kilgore is raising rates due to a spike in monthly processing costs.
- San Angelo and Republic are rethinking their contract.

Changes & Solutions:

- San Antonio doubles recycling contamination fees
- El Paso will step up its education efforts with a goal of cutting current contamination rates in half.
- Oak Ridge North approved a rate increase which could go back down if they stop collecting glass.
- Four neighborhoods in Harris County's Municipal Utility District 119 will lose all curbside recycling service due to rising costs.
- San Angelo will be removing mixed paper and mixed plastics from the city's program to avoid a change in price for residents.

Courtesy of: Waste Dive, https://www.wastedive.com/news/what-chinese-import-policies-mean-for-all-50-states/510751/?fbclid=IwAR26wPKbypV0jGTcffJcUYhH-TMZQANzR87QmWuJa5zOJZDazLU_Df2jaOE

Community News

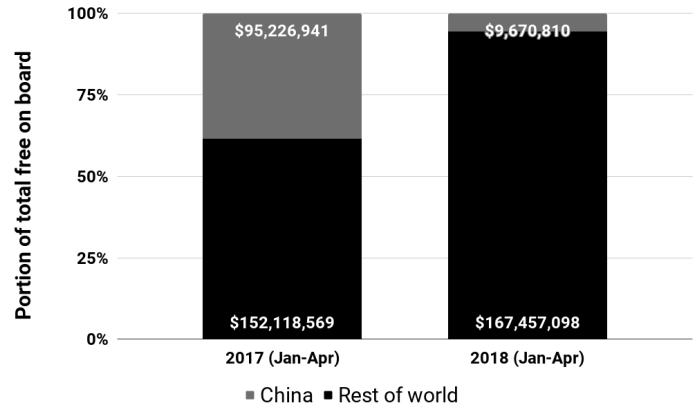
The Robinson Area Lions Club will be hosting a free pancake appreciation breakfast for all Robinson veterans and spouses or guest on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 8 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. at the

Peplow Park Pavilion in Robinson. Reservations are not required, but helpful. For more information or to RSVP contact Mike or Linda Sanders at (254) 881-1821



Timeline of Recycling

- 1960's -> Curbside recycling pickup began.
- April 22, 1970 -> Earth Day is celebrated for the first time.
- April 1987 -> New Jersey enacts the nation's first mandatory recycling law requiring all residents to separate their recycling from their trash. A number of other states and a few large cities follow suit.
- 1998 -> America is at a 30% nationwide recycling participation, the highest ever at the time.
- 2009 -> By this time, the U.S. had exported more mixed paper and mixed plastics to China than the rest of the world, combined.
- July 2017 -> China announces scrap import ban.
- Jan 2018 -> Ban goes into effect, US searches for other countries to ship recycling to and begin sending it to various Southeast Asia countries.
- May 2018 -> Countries begin to be overwhelmed by the amount of imported recycling they receive, Vietnam temporarily stops accepting scrap plastic imports.
- October 2018 -> Thailand plans to end the import of all plastic scrap by 2021.
- November 2018 -> Malaysia announces a plan to end plastic imports in the next 3 years.



Courtesy of: Waste Dive, <https://www.wastedive.com/news/china-scrap-ban-supply-chain-effects/527986/>

the **GREAT**
Robinson
Easter Egg Hunt

Friday, April 19 4 - 6 PM

Ages 10 & under 17,000 eggs Peplow Park

Brookshire's food & pharmacy CITY OF ROBINSON

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